

What is claimed is:

1. A smoke generator for a model toy train having an engine comprising:
a smoke generating element operably associated with the train to generate smoke;
a blower for generating an airstream, the airstream for moving the smoke; and
a controller for receiving a signal corresponding to a load on the train and controlling
the blower to generate the airstream at a predetermined rate in response to the signal.
2. A smoke generator as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
the signal corresponding to a voltage across the engine of the model train.
3. A smoke generator as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
the signal corresponding to a speed of at least one wheel of the model train.
4. A smoke generator as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
a gasket for thermally insulating the blower, at least partially, with respect to the
element.
5. A smoke generator as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
the element formed of nickel and chromium.
6. A smoke generator as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
the blower having at least one of a fan selected from the group consisting of an axial
fan, a radial flow fan, a mixed flow fan and a cross flow fan.
7. A smoke generator as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
a housing operably associated with the train having interconnected first and second
sub-housings in fluid communication with respect to each other, the first sub-housing at least
partially enclosing the element, the second sub-housing at least partially enclosing the
blower.
8. A smoke generator as recited in claim 6 further comprising:
the blower including a fan; and
the second sub-housing having an interior shaped to correspond to a shape of the fan.

9. A smoke generator as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
the element including a wire and terminals engaged with opposite ends of the wire,
each terminal operably for connecting the element to the train.
10. A smoke generator for a model toy train having an engine comprising:
a smoke generating element operably associated with the train to generate smoke;
a blower for generating an airstream, the airstream for moving the smoke; and
a controller for receiving a signal corresponding to a load on the train and controlling
the blower to generate the airstream at a predetermined rate in response to the signal, the
controller controlling the blower to increase the rate of the airstream in response to an
increase in the load on the train.
11. A smoke generator as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
the signal corresponding to a voltage across the engine of the model train.
12. A smoke generator as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
the signal corresponding to a speed of at least one wheel of the model 11 train.
13. A smoke generator as recited in claim 9 further comprising:
the blower including a fan; and
a housing operably associated with the train having interconnected first and second
sub-housings in fluid communication with respect to each other, the first sub-housing at least
partially enclosing the element, the second sub-housing at least partially enclosing the
blower, the second sub-housing having an interior shaped to correspond to a shape of the fan.
14. A smoke generator as recited in claim 10 further comprising:
at least one of the first and second sub-housings formed of zamak.
15. A smoke generator as recited in claim 9 further comprising:
a gasket for thermally insulating the blower, at least partially, with respect to the
element.

16. A smoke generator as recited in claim 9 further comprising:
the element including a wire formed of nickel and chromium and terminals engaged with opposite ends of the wire, each terminal operably associated with the train.

17. A method for generating smoke for a model toy train having an engine comprising the steps of:
generating smoke with a smoke generating element operably associated with the train;
generating an airstream with a blower, the airstream for moving the smoke;
controlling the blower with a controller to generate the airstream at a predetermined rate in response to a signal corresponding to a load on the train.

18. The method for generating smoke as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of:
receiving a signal corresponding to a voltage across the engine of the model train with the controller.

19. The method for generating smoke as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of:
receiving a signal corresponding to a speed of at least one wheel of the model train with the controller.

20. The method for generating smoke as recited in claim 14 further comprising the steps of:
positioning the smoke generating element in a first sub-housing a housing in fluid communication with an exterior of the train; and
positioning at least part of the blower in a second sub-housing in fluid communication with the first sub housing and with the exterior of the train, the second sub-housing having an interior shaped to correspond to a shape of the part of the blower disposed in the second sub-housing.

21. The method for generating smoke as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of
thermally insulating the blower with respect to the element, at least in part, with a gasket.

22. The method for generating smoke as recited in claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

crimping a terminal with an end of the element; and

engaging the terminal with the train to mount the element with respect to the train.